CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA RESOLUTION #07-2021

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA, REDUCING MONTHLY TRANSIENT MOORAGE FEES FOR THE 2021 SUMMER SEASON FROM \$21.83 PER FOOT TO \$15.30 PER FOOT TO PROMOTE LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENCOURAGE LOCAL ALASKANS TO SELECT WHITTIER AS THEIR DESTINATION OF CHOICE FOR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES IN PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND

WHEREAS, the community of Whittier provides convenient access to many Alaskans to recreate in Prince William Sound, including as passengers on fishing charters, wildlife cruises, kayak adventures, jet ski adventures, and numerous other water and outdoor hiking/camping and recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the COVID19 pandemic resulted in unprecedented mandates requiring individuals to avoid travel, remain indoors, exercise social distancing, and other such extreme measures leading to increased social isolation and anxiety; and

WHEREAS, the recent increase in availability of vaccines and lifting of mandates offers an opportunity for Alaskans to resume normal activities of daily living and many families are eager to explore recreational opportunities and activities close to home;

WHEREAS, with the likely reduction in cruise ships to Whittier again in 2021, the local business community would benefit from any actions the City could take to make it more affordable for visitors to recreate in Prince William Sound and to choose Whittier as their summer seasonal recreation destination; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2021, the Whittier Port and Harbor Commission voted unanimously in favor of reducing the monthly (only) transient moorage fee by 30% beginning April 15, 2021 through September 15, 2021, with the goal of attracting and increasing the number of boaters to Whittier this summer; and

WHEREAS, based on total monthly transient moorage revenue in 2020 (\$136,670) and 2019 (\$116,714), under the worse-case scenario – that no new boats utilize monthly transient moorage during the 2021 season – Harbor revenues could decline by up to \$38,000. To replace this lost revenue requires 2,484 additional feet (at \$15.30 per foot) of new transient monthly moorage, or the equivalent of sixteen 32 ft. vessels for the season to make up for the rate decrease; and

WHEREAS, is hoped that this action will promote economic development among numerous local businesses and encourage an increase in utilization of the harbor sufficient to make up for the reduction in monthly transient moorage fees, and that it will encourage boat owners from

Anchorage and other nearby communities to choose Whittier as their harbor of choice for future boating needs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

<u>Section 1.</u> The Harbor Monthly Transient Moorage fee for the 2021 summer season (April 15 through September 15, 2021) is hereby reduced by 30%, from the current rate (excluding sales tax) of \$21.83 per foot to \$15.30 per foot. Thereafter, the fee will resume at its pre-adjusted rate unless further action is taken by the City Council to extend the reduced fee.

<u>Section 2</u>. This resolution takes effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the Whittier City Council on this 16th day of March, 2021.

ATTEST:

Naelene Matsumiya

City Clerk

Dave Dickason

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Mayor

Ayes: 5 Nays: 2 Absent: Ø Abstain: Ø